CLAIMS:

1. A method for post-processing a bit stream of compressed multimedia data having been compressed by a process comprising independent compression of non-overlapping blocks of pixels covering the original multimedia data, said method comprising:
-providing an information signal (Q) representing the bit stream, said signal (Q) comprising coded transform coefficients,
-reducing a bit rate of the signal (Q) by discarding a selected set of the coded transform coefficients.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein discarding a selected set of the coded transform coefficients comprises the steps:
-providing a random pattern representing transform coefficients having random signs of (-1, +1),
-parsing and partially decoding the bit stream to run-level pairs,
-selecting candidate run-level pairs (candidate(s)) having a level equal to (-1, 1), wherein the run is equal to the number of zeros preceding a certain coefficient and the level is equal to a value of the coefficient,
-determining the corresponding random sign (-1, +1),
-discarding candidate(s) if a sum of the level of the candidate(s) and the buffer is equal to zero,
-merging extra zeros from discarded candidate(s) to a run of a next run-level pair to form a new run-level pair,
-generating a new code for the new run-level pair to obtain a new information signal (Q).

3. A method according to claim 2, wherein a set of least significant coefficients is discarded.

4. A method according to claim 3, wherein a set of up to three is discarded.

5. A method according to claim 2, wherein the discarded set is determined by indices in a transform block in response to a target quality.

6. A method according to claim 2, wherein the discarded set is determined by having a lower index.

7. A method according to claim 2, wherein the discarded set is determined by total allowed changes.

8. A method according to claim 2, wherein the discarded set is determined by a quantization step.

9. A computer-readable medium provided with program instructions for causing one or more processors to perform the method of claim 1 or 2.

10. A digital information signal (Q) of compressed multimedia data having been compressed by a process comprising independent compression of non-overlapping blocks of pixels covering the original multimedia data, said signal (Q) having a reduced bit rate by being provided with a reduced set of coded transform coefficients.

11. An apparatus (1) for post-processing a bit stream of compressed multimedia data having been compressed by a process comprising independent compression of non-overlapping blocks of pixels covering the original multimedia data, said apparatus (1) comprising:

-buffer means (2) comprising a random pattern representing transform coefficients having random signs of (-1, +1);

-decoding/encoding means (3) for analysing and decoding/encoding an incoming/outgoing information signal (Q) comprising coded transform coefficients representing the bit stream;

-at least one video block (4), comprising transform coefficients;

-control means (8) for controlling said video block(s) (4), the buffer means (2) and the decoding/encoding means (3), wherein the decoding/encoding means (3) parses and partially decodes the stream to run-level pairs, the control means (8) selects candidate(s) run-level pairs having a level equal to (-1, 1), determines the corresponding random sign (-1, +1) from the buffer means (2), discards candidate(s) if a sum of the level of the candidate and the

buffer means (2) is equal to zero, merges extra zeros from discarded candidate(s) to a run of a next run-level pair, the decoding/encoding means (3) generates a new code for the new run-level pair, to provide an outgoing information signal (Q) having a selected set of the coded transform coefficients discarded to obtain a reduced bit rate.

12. An apparatus for recording a digital image information signal (Q) of compressed multimedia data having been compressed by a process comprising independent compression of non-overlapping blocks of pixels covering the original multimedia data, said apparatus comprising an apparatus (1) for post-processing a bit stream of compressed multimedia according to claim 11.

13. Use of a method according to claim 1 in a digital network such as the Internet.